

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, UN, GQ, NH,VQ, AQ,

SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24): NEW HERBRIDES' (NH)

PETITIONERS AND CONSIDERATION OF SMALL TERRITORIES;

GUAM, AMERICAN SAMOA AND US VIRGIN ISLANDS

1. DURING MORNING AND AFTERNOON MEETINGS ON AUGUST 19, THE C-24 HEARD PETITIONERS FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES NATIONAL PARTY AND UCNH) UNION OF COMMUNITIES OF THE NEW HEBRIDES) PARTY AND BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON SMALL TERRITORIES ON THE FOLLOWING TERRITORIES: COCOS ISLANDS; BERMUDA; CAYMAN ISLANDS, MONTSERRAT AND TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS; GILBERT ISLANDS, PITCARIN AND TUVALU; ST. HELENA; SOLOMON ISLANDS; AMERICAN SAMOA; GUAM; THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS AND BURUNDI. A STATEMENT BY A PETITIONER ON THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS IS REPORTED BY SEPTEL.

2. ACTING CHAIRMAN VRAALSEN (NORWAY) BEGAN THE MEETING BY LAMENTING RECENT ACTS OF "BRUTAL REPRESSION" IN SOUTH AFRICA AND CALLING ON COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORT APARTHEID TO

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"SEARCH THEIR CONSCIENCE."

3. WALTER LINI, PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HEBRIDES NATIONAL PARTY, SAID HIS PARTY REPRESENTED THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE NH WHICH WAS DEMANDING INDEPENDENCE BY 1977. HE CRITICIZED THE "DUALITY" OF SERVICES AND THE COLONIALIST SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THE NH HAVE SUFFERED, AS WELL AS THE DIVISIONS WHICH THE DUAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT AND ADMINISTRATION HAVE CREATED. HE WELCOMED FRANCE'S AGREEMENT TO GO ALONG WITH THE UK IN GIVING THE NH INDEPENDENCE, BUT ACCUSED FRANCE OF SUPPORTING THE NA-GRIAMEL SEPARATIST MOVEMENT AS A DELIBERATE MOVE TO UNITE OTHER PRO-FRENCH PARTIES TO CREATE A UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE NATIONAL PARTY'S WISHES FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE SAID A "MAYOTTE" TYPE OF GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING FOR SNATO ISLAND IN THE NORTHERN PART OF MNH.

4. LINI REQUESTED THAT A C-24 MISSION VISIT THE NH IMMEDIATELY TO ASCERTAIN THE ASPIRATIONS AND WISHES OF THE PEOPLE AND TO ACQUIRE FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE SITUATION IN THE TERRITORY. HE REPEATED THE REQUEST THAT THE UK AND FRANCE GRANT INDEPENDENCE TO THE TERRITORY IN 1977. IF THEY DO NOT, HE SAID, THE NATIONAL PARTY SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE RIGHT TO CALL FOR A REFERENDUM TO DECIDE WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD REMAIN ON THE ISLAND TO HELP ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE AND WHICH GOVERNMENT SHOULD LEAVE.

5. VINCENT BOULEKONE, VICE-PRESIDENT OF UCNH, SAID PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONARIES WERE TRYING TO ELIMINATE HIS PARTY. THE PARTY, WHICH HAD EXISTED FOR ONLY TWO YEARS, HAD TEN SEATS IN THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY COMPARED TO THIRTEEN WON BY THE NATIONAL PARTY. IT WAS CONFIDENT IT WOULD WIN A MAJORITY AT THE NEXT ELECTION. MANY PEOPLE WERE AGAINST THE VOTE OF "NO CONFIDENCE" IN THE ADMINISTERING POWERS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE NATIONAL PARTY, HE REMARKED. HIS PARTY OPPOSED INDEPENDENCE IN 1977, HE STATED. BEFORE ANY UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION WENT TO THE NEW HEBRIDES, THE POLITICAL PARTIES MUST PUT THEIR OWN HOUSE IN ORDER. HE ALSO OPPOSED THE REFERENDUM SUGGESTED BY THE NATIONAL PARTY.

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6. HE SAID MINISTERS OF VARIOUS RELIGIONS WERE SUPPRESSING THE CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLANDS. THE NATIONAL PARTY WAS TOTALITARIAN AND THEOCRATIC, HE ASSERTED. IT COULD NOT BE TRUSTED. HIS PARTY WAS NOT AGAINST THE PRINCIPLE OF INDEPENDENCE, HE WENT ON. HIS PARTY'S DIFFERENCES WITH THE NATIONAL PARTY RELATED TO MODALITIES. THE DISPATCH OF A UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION IN THE

NEAR FUTURE WOULD ONLY COMPOUND THE PROBLEMS, WHICH SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY THE PARTIES THEMSELVES. BOULEKONE SAID HIS PARTY WANTED SELF-GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, RATHER THAN INDEPENDENCE IN 1977, SO THAT THE PEOPLE COULD PREPARE FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE STATED THAT THE UNITED KINGDOM HAD SLOWED ALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE VILLAGES. AT THE SAME TIME, FRANCE WAS TRYING TO BALKANIZE THE TERRITORY, FOLLOWING ON THE MAYOTTE CASE.

7. DURING HIS INTRODUCTION OF THE REPORTS ON AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS, REID (AUSTRALIA) DREW THE COMMITTEE'S ATTENTION TO PARAGRAPHS DEALING WITH THE SPECIAL REFERENDUM IN AMERICAN SAMOA ON AUGUST 31 AND THE STATUS REFERENDUM IN GUAM IN SEPTEMBER AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY WOULD COMMUNICATE THE RESULTS OF THOSE ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE OF 24. HE DREW ATTENTION TO THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN PARA 6 (3) OF THE REPORT ON THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS THAT THE BILL FOR A PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION "REPRESENTS A LACK OF SIGNIFICANT CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRESS TOWARDS THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF" RES 1514. THERE WERE NOT OTHER COMMENTS ON THE THREE REPORTS OF, FOR THAT MATTER, ON ANY OF THE OTHER REPORTS INTRODUCED BY THE RAPPORTEUR.

8. THE COMMITTEE WILL NEXT MEET ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 20, AT WHICH TIME IT IS EXPECTED THE COMMITTEE WILL ADOPT THE REPORTS ON AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, AND THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS AS WELL AS THE OTHER REPORTS INTRODUCED ON AUGUST 19. THE C-24 WILL ALSO TAKE UP THE SUB-COMMITTEE'S REPORTS ON THE NEW HEBRIDES AND THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS AT THAT TIME.

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